and unnecessary harassments and use of third degree methods to extract confessions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to the information received from the National Human Rights Commission, 244 people died in police custody in various States/Union territories in the country during the period 1st January, 1997 to 30th April, 1998. 14 of these deaths took place in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) 46679 cases were registered with the National Human Rights Commission from 1st January, 1997 to 30th April, 1998.

(c) "Police" and "Public Order" are included in the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Consequently, the State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for taking action to improve the methods for interrogation. The Government of India has, however, issued guidelines to the State Governments from time to time to ensure that the police forces conduct themselves in a humans manner and that alleged cases of police excesses, if any, are taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly.

M.S. Liberhan Commission of Inquiry

801. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of M.S. Liberhan Commission of Inquiry;

(b) whether the Commission's Chairman has rapped Government/State Government for not taking any step to vacate the 1993 order of Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court, as reported in the Telegraph, dated 10th May, 1998 and if not, the factual position as on date; and

(c) whether the Commission's tenure is expiring shortly and, if so, the steps taken to extend the same?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The terms & reference of the Commission are to make an inquiry with respect to the following matters:—

(i) The sequence of events leading to, and all the facts and circumstances relating to, the occurrences in the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid complex at Ayodhya on 6th December 1992 involving the destruction of the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid structure;

(ii) The role played by the Chief Minister, Members of the Council of Ministers, officials of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and by the individuals, concerned organisations and agencies in, or in connection with, the destruction of the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid structure;

(iii) The deficiencies in security measures and other arrangements as prescribed or operated in practice by Government of Uttar Pradesh which might have contributed to the events that took place in the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid complex, Ayodhya town and Faizabad on 6th December, 1992;

(iv) The sequence of events leading to, and all the facts and circumstances relating to, the assault on media persons at Ayodhya on 6th December, 1992; and

(v) Any other matters related to the subject of Inquiry.

(b) As directed by the Commission on 11.12.1997, Union of India has already filed on application on 17.12.1997 before the Lucknow Bench to clarify whether the stay order which was vacated on 15.5.97 has been restored on 23.7.97 alongwith the Writ Petitions. In order to expedite the matter another application has also been filed in March 1998.

(c) The present tenure of the Commission is upto 30.6.98. If need be, its tenure may be extended.

Visa at International Airports

802. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to adopt a system where a foreign tourist can get a visa on arrival at International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?